

Atty. Docket No.: 22.1544 (SLB.0010)

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated December 12, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on March 12, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-29 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 18-27 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Claims 3-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 2, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,773,299 ("Oestreich"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Oestreich generally describes a well perforating apparatus having a perforating gun body 44 and charges supported therein by an outer charge holder tube 84, an inner charge holder tube 86 and a retaining means 88. The outer charge holder tube 84, the inner charge holder tube 86 and the retaining means 88 constitute the carrier means 74, which are configured to retain the explosive charges. (See column 9, lines 29-35). However, Oestreich does not teach or disclose a loading tube for a perforating gun having ridges forming valleys therebetween, as recited in claim 1. The Examiner refers to elements 156 and 158 in Oestreich as the ridges forming valleys therebetween. However, Oestreich refers to element 156 as a horseshoe-shaped resilient clip and element 158 as a closed lower portion of that clip. (See column 11, lines 50-55). Elements 156 and 158 do not show ridges forming valleys therebetween, as proposed by the Examiner. In fact, Oestreich mentions nothing about a loading tube having ridges forming valleys therebetween. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Oestreich. Claim 2 is also patentable over Oestreich since it depends from claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection over these claims is respectfully requested.

As to claim 28, Oestreich fails to teach a method of constructing a loading tube by forming a material to have a pattern of explosive charge cups formed along

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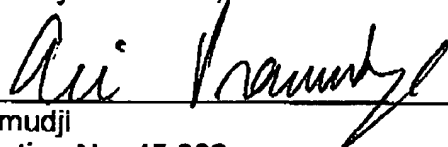
longitudinal sections of the material and folding the longitudinal sections together to substantially enclose the explosive charges within a substantially cylindrical tube. Oestreich merely proposes the inner charge holder tube 86 being held in axial alignment within the outer charge holder tube 84. (See column 11, lines 23-26). In fact, Oestreich mentions nothing about forming a material to have a pattern of explosive charge cups formed along longitudinal sections of the material and folding the longitudinal sections together to substantially enclose the explosive charges within a substantially cylindrical tube, as recited in claim 28. Accordingly, claim 28 is patentable over Oestreich. Claim 29 is also patentable over Oestreich since it depends from claim 28. Withdrawal of the rejection over these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-27 have been allowed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner for allowing these claims.

Claims 3-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge the allowable subject matter, but have elected to not rewrite these claims in independent form at this time.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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